

A message from GORMAN/FORT BANKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Hi GFB Families,

Last week was certainly an exciting one. Students seemed to really enjoy our spirit week. Tuesday's theme, wear the color of your favorite flag, was especially enjoyable. Seeing students display and discuss their pride in ancestry and areas from which many families have migrated made learning about the diversity among us especially powerful. Its onto this week so please read on to see what's ahead:

Term 2 will close on Friday, March 17th. Report cards are forecasted to be sent home with students on Friday March 31. These dates shine a spotlight on how quickly we are approaching the end of this academic year. With about 60 days left, our thoughts should focus on maximizing the impact of this year's learning. Please commit to your child's consistent attendance at school and to putting those curriculum summaries to good and frequent use.

Parent/guardian conferences begin the last Wednesday of March and continue through the first 2 Wednesday in April. Please keep these dates in mind in advance of teachers sending out sign up sheets for conferences. And by way of reminder, these dates are also early release days.

This Wednesday, March 15th, is an early release day. Teachers will participate in professional development focused on Satchel Pulse, our social emotional assessment tool. Ms. Scorzella will lead staff in digesting the data and will provide suggestions, accommodations, and resources to address the emotional health needs of our students. Early release times follow:

- AM preschool students do not attend. PM preschool students will be dismissed at 10:30 a.m. from the **front door** of the school. Preschool parents and/or guardians should park by the cemetery and walk to get their students.
- Kindergarten students will be dismissed at 10:40 a.m.
- 1st/2nd grade students will be dismissed at 11:00 a.m.
- To keep traffic flowing, 1st and 2nd grade families are reminded NOT to arrive early. Only families picking up kindergarten students will be allowed to remain in the right turn only lane. All other traffic will be directed to the cemetery.

Samaritans will be offering a one-hour workshop open to all guardians aimed to teach strategies to best support your child(ren) during stressful times, de-stigmatizing suicide and mental illness in the community, and provide helpful resources. Join them on **Thursday, March 16th at 6:30pm** by registering [here](#). Pizza and snacks will be provided!

**For Kids Only Afterschool is Now Open at GFB!** For Kids Only Afterschool (FKO), a Massachusetts EEC licensed out-of-school time program, has opened a second location in town - right here in the Gorman Fort Banks School. FKO is open Monday through Friday from school dismissal until 5:30pm and currently has space for children in Kindergarten through Grade 2. FKO's tuition rate is \$25/day with EEC Income-Eligible Vouchers and DCF Supportive Slots accepted. Interested families can enroll at [www.ezchildtrack.com/fko/parent](http://www.ezchildtrack.com/fko/parent). If you have any questions about the program, please reach out to FKO Site Director Kathryn Monahan at [kmonahan@fkoafterschool.org](mailto:kmonahan@fkoafterschool.org) or 857-201-1061. Families looking to apply for financial assistance can contact FKO's Family Case Manager Isabel Morales at [imorales@fkoafterschool.org](mailto:imorales@fkoafterschool.org) or 978-778-5156.

Substitutes and ESPs are still needed. Please reach out to me, Ms. Tucker, or Ms. Sacco if you or someone you know are interested in learning more about these positions.

That's all for now.

Wishing you a great week...

Your Partner in Education,

*Ms. Pearson, Principal*